

Breaking Bread

Newsletter – The Brisbane Society of The New Church,
Brisbane and South-East Queensland
Nov, Dec 2017 & Jan 2018



Art Work by Lenore Sandow

The Lord could through angels, lead man into good ends by omnipotent force; but this would be to take away the man's life...

Secrets of Heaven 5854 – Emanuel Swedenborg

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The Militant Church

Rev 12:7-8

7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.

Apocalypse Explained 734. Verse 7. And there was war in heaven, signifies the combat of falsity against truth and of truth against falsity. This is evident from the signification of "war," as being spiritual war, that is of falsity against truth and of truth against falsity. The falsity here meant is falsity from evil, and the truth, truth from good; for there exist many kinds of falsities, but those falsities only that are from evil fight against truths from good...

All those are in the falsities of evil who in their life have given no thought to heaven and the Lord, but have thought only of self and the world. To think of heaven and the Lord in the life is to think that this or that must be done because the Word so teaches and commands; those who do this, since they live from the Word, live from the Lord and heaven. But to think only of self and the world is to think that this or that must be done because of the laws of the country, and for the sake of reputation, honour and gain; such do not live for the Lord and heaven, but for self and the world.

Do you feel militants? Do you see yourself as a soldier? Is the idea of being a spiritual warrior engaged in battle and fighting off enemies, something you find harmonious? Do these ideas resonate with you as being spiritual?

If I think about Heaven and the afterlife, my thoughts go to peace, kindness, gentleness and beautiful states of the heart that all belong to the advancing soul. I do not think of fighting, clashing, shouting, battling and war. And yet, both the Bible and Swedenborg refer to the Lord's Church as being a militant Church. Here is what Swedenborg says about the nature of Angels and demons –

When angelic spirits flow in they do so as softly as gentlest breezes. But when evil spirits do so it is like a deluge entering with dreadful delusions and persuasions into the left side of the brain, and with desires into the right. The influx of them is so to speak a deluge of delusions and desires (Secrets of Heaven 641).

Whether we like it or not, if we are to be a part of the Lord's Church, we must learn how to fight for the Truth. In this epic battle, we must also learn about who our real enemy is and how to combat *that* enemy.

BE DRESSED READY FOR SERVICE AND KEEP YOUR LAMPS BURNING (LUKE 12)

To address the issue '*fighting for the truth*', we need to remember that it is a spiritual battle not a natural battle. Most of this '*fighting*' occurs on the inside of us, in our hearts. The Truths that we encounter from the WORD, inevitably confront deep issues inside of us. The Battle is between what we 'know' to be true and our selfish desires that are contrary to those truths. Our selfish desires use the weapons called 'lies' and 'falsities'. The Truth found in the spiritual sense of the WORD is the perfect response to drive out these falsities and thereby expose the evils. From there, we encounter the next level of challenge, to 'shun those evils' and thereby make room for the Lord's Goodness. Once the Lord's life in us is established, those evils are dethroned or powerless to rule our hearts and lives. They may come back and haunt us from time to time, but the Lord's life now living in our hearts overrules these attacks.

Early on in this battle, one of the ways we can sabotage this process, is to run away from the truth by holding on to our false ideas. As believers, we read the WORD and are exposed to spiritual teachings. Thus, the only way for us to successfully sabotage these combats between Truth and falsity is by allowing our minds to falsify the WORD.

Falsity by itself, is quite harmless, much like truths without goodness are powerless and merely intellectual ideas (AC 9192:7). We all carry some degree of false ideas. Over time the Lord removes these misconceptions. These kinds of falsities are quite easy to remove. On the other hand, when we hold on to a false idea or concept because it allows us to cover up evil within our souls, we are dealing with a much more powerful foe. The strongest of all spiritual enemies is referred to by the Apostle Paul as '*Strong Delusion*' (2Thes 2:11). In the Book of Revelation, chapter 12, it is referred to as '*The Red Dragon*'. This spiritual enemy finds its way into our hearts by false concepts that hide our evils and then cloak those evils in Biblical theology.

What is the spiritual Litmus test for determining whether a falsity I am holding is simply a wrong understanding, or whether such falsity is coming from (is fuelled by) evil inside me? The answer is simple, but it still involves a lot of spiritual work.

Whenever we use our false views to fight against the WORD and the Lord, evil is at work underneath the cover of our arguments. Any of the false ideas we have, that are not driven by evil do not mind being examined under the light of the Lord and His WORD (AC 9192:6-7). Those falsities that we refuse to move on or even reconsider, are hiding evil beneath the covers.

WE MUST BE PREPARED TO FIGHT

The Lord knows that if we were left to ourselves without His protection, we would be defenceless against evil and therefore overwhelmed -

If the Lord did not protect man moment by moment, and in every shortest instant, he would immediately perish, for there is such murderous hatred reigning in the world of spirits against all forms of love and faith in the Lord as to defy description. (Secrets of Heaven 59:2)

Along the same lines, the Lord cannot just 'save us' but we need to work with Him in His process of delivering us from evil and that is why when speaking to the religious leaders of His day, Jesus told them to 'first clean the inside of the cup...' (Mat 23:36). The Apostle Paul also told us to 'continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling' (Phil 2:12). We must take up our armour and fight with the Lord. We do this every time we resist the evil that is trying to dominate us -

While a person is being regenerated and becoming spiritual he is involved constantly in conflict, which is why the Lord's Church is called militant. For before regeneration started, evil desires were in control, since the whole person consisted entirely of evil desires and resulting falsities. During the process of regeneration his desires and falsities cannot be done away with instantly, since that would amount to destroying the whole person; indeed, he has not acquired any other life for himself. So, for a long time evil spirits are left with him to activate his desires, and so release them in countless ways. Indeed, the spirits are left there to do this in order that those desires may be turned by the Lord towards something good, and in this way the person may be reformed. In the hour of conflict evil spirits are present who absolutely hate everything that is good and true, that is, every element of love and faith in the Lord - elements that alone are good and true because they contain eternal life. (Secrets of Heaven 59:1)

In conclusion, the idea of being a warrior engaged in spiritual battles may not be the first idea that comes to you when you think about being a spiritual person. And yet, the truth is, that we are all sons of God engaged in a mighty battle for the salvation of the human race. And the War is being waged for the very prize of our souls.

May you keep your armour on and fight the good fight,
Rev Darren Brunne
AMEN



The Months Ahead Unpacked

An explanation of the upcoming events for November, December & beyond.

North-side Swedenborg Reading Group

Nov - Thursday 16th

Dec - Thursday 21st

Jan – Break until February

South-side Swedenborg Spiritual Support Group

Nov - Thursday 10th

Dec - Thursday 14th

Jan – Break until February

Once a month, on the second Thursday evening from 6pm to 7:15pm at Capalaba Library, the South-side Swedenborg Spiritual Support Group meets together to discuss principles for spiritual stability and growth. To all our south-side community (or our north-siders if you don't mind the travel), if you would like spiritual support, come join the stimulating discussion.

NOVEMBER FAMILY SERVICE – Sunday 5th

The Ninth Promise - 'You will embrace and speak forth the Truth'

DECEMBER FAMILY SERVICE – Sunday 3^d

Christmas Message

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE – Sunday 24th

There will be a break for the month of January. In February we will complete the series on 'The Ten Promises' where we will explore the inner and spiritual meaning of the final Ten Commandment. These Promises reveal the inner empowerment from the Lord to transform us into the 'Celestial Man'.



Hot Food & Birthday Cake Roster for First Sunday Lunches

Feb	Anna
March	Fran
April	Vivian
May	Bev
June	Ruth
July	Bev
Aug	Renee
Sept	Anna
Oct	Fran
Nov	Renee
Dec	We all pitch in for Christmas luncheon

Birthdays

To all our friends celebrating birthdays throughout these months we wish you birthday greetings and blessings.

November

5th Justin Keane, 8th Brian Heldon, 12th Xavier Brunne, 21st Gabrielle MacFarlane.

December

3rd Mrs Margaret Lawler, 5th Mrs Erlinda Atwater, Max Fitzgerald, 8th Mrs Ruth Blom, 13th Allison Chambers, Felicity Lawler, 26th James Heldon, 27th Mark Fitzgerald
29th Darren Brunne, 30th Mr Charlie Dinsdale.

January

6th Jacqueline Lawler, 7th Melody Brunne, 24th Lenore Sandow, 30th Lina Heldon, 30th Kaye Macfarlane.

CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

Our services are held at our Centre – 1/24 Railway Terrace, Dutton Park.

Always check the last page in the Calendar for services.

Pastor: Rev. Darren Brunne, contactable on 0421 319 252

Treasurer: Mr Brian Heldon, contactable on 0419 778 717

Secretary: Mrs Gaye Heldon, contactable on 07-5577 8772 or bgheldon@gmail.com
Address: P. O. Box 359, Sanctuary Cove, Qld. 4212

For activities on the Gold Coast and Mt Tamborine meetings contact Mrs Gaye Heldon on 07-5577 8772

Sunday School Co-ordinators:

Bev Sheppard, contactable on 07-38 44 71 87 or revshep@tpg.com.au

CALENDARS

Nov 2017

Sun 5th

1st SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE including **HOLY SUPPER**
led by Rev. Brunne at 10.30 a.m. The Ninth Promise

Sun 12th

Sacred Circle, 10.30 a.m.

Sun 19th

Abiding in the Vine led by Rev. Brunne.

Sun 26th

Free for Home Church Visitation

Dec

Sun 3rd

1st SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE including **HOLY SUPPER**
led by Rev. Brunne at 10:30am - Christmas Message

Sun 10th

Sacred Circle, 10.30 a.m.

Fri 16th

*Mt Tamborine Discussion Group
John and Lenore's House at 12pm*

Sun 24th

Christmas Eve Service.

Sun 25th

No Service Christmas Day

Jan

Mon 1st – Sun 7th

QLD Church Camp

Feb 2018

Sun 4th

1st SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE including **HOLY SUPPER** led by Rev.
Brunne at 10.30 a.m. The Ten Promise